

Scant Faith Found in Scandinavia

(Continued from Page 1)

The tiny nation has a long and precarious border with Soviet Russia and the Kremlin makes it clear Finland is lucky to be "neutral" and better stay that way.

Delegates to the Communist-inspired "Youth Congress" were arriving in Helsinki and the two priests watched young Russians parade through the streets with their red banners and signs in many languages — Peace, Myr, Paix, Frieden.

Finland's one Catholic bishop, Dutch born Sacred Heart Society member Bishop William F. Cobben, said he had only 20 priests, and only one of these was a native Finn.

"The words Finn and Lutheran are interchangeable here," he told them, "but very few actually go to church."

Two churches dominate the Helsinki skyline — the gold domed, white columned Lutheran cathedral and the Russian Orthodox Cathedral — both in need of extensive reconstruction.

The Catholic St. Henry's Cathedral is a sad little church built about a century ago for Polish troops in the Russian Czar's army which then occupied Finland. The first Catholic church in central Finland just opened — St. Olav's at Jyväskylä, built chiefly by funds from Germany and from the Sacred Heart Society, a mission order to which most of Finland's priests belong.

The one bright chapter for the Church in Finland is the story of two parochial schools, both staffed by American Precious Blood nuns from O'Fallon, Missouri. Although less than ten years in operation, both schools already have a reputation as "prestige" schools with high academic standing — the great "virtue" admired by all Scandinavians.

There are no seminaries, high schools or colleges under Catholic auspices in any of the three countries. Both clergy and lay people the Rochester priests met, however, showed a vibrant faith with great confidence that the Church is on the threshold of great progress.

Catholic centers — somewhat similar to Newman units in secular U.S. colleges — are the source of great intellectual activity at Scandinavian colleges not just for the Catholics attending those schools but for the far larger numbers of other students who seldom attend their own denomination's services or instructions.

Lutheran clergy are admittedly discouraged at the great "falling off" of attendance and openly advocate reunion (after readjustment) with the Roman Catholic Church.

In Denmark, Catholics and Lutherans each year observe two Sundays with "prayers for unity" — one Sunday the Catholics visit Lutheran churches to pray there and the following Sunday the Lutherans join Catholics in their churches to pray for this intention.

Both Catholics and devout Scandinavian Lutherans look to this autumn's ecumenical council at the Vatican as the possible dawn of a new era of closer collaboration of all Christians in strengthening a spiritual heritage seriously threatened by a rapidly spreading materialistic culture.

Scout Prayer To Our Lady

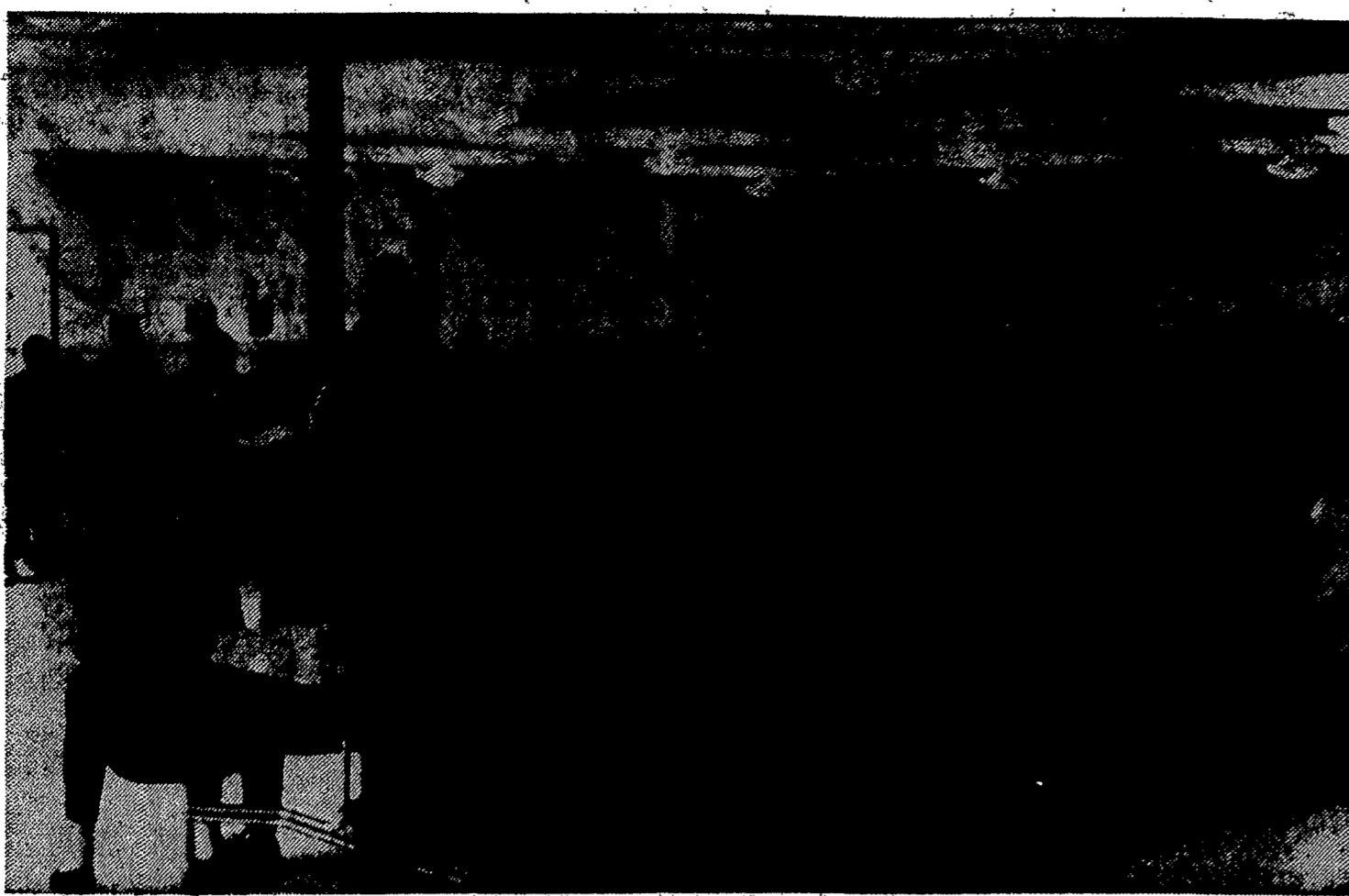
Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII has composed a new prayer to the Virgin Mary for the occasion of the 6th national jamboree of the Italian Catholic Boy Scouts, it was reported here.

A 100-day indulgence was attached to the prayer by the pontiff for each time a scout recites it with contriteness.

The prayer reads:

"O Mary, your name is on my lips and in my heart from the onset of my life. From childhood I have learned to love you as a mother, to invoke your name in danger, to confide in your intercession. You lead in my soul the truth of my desire to practice virtue, to be prudent and just, strong and patient with all my brothers."

"O Mary, help me to live my apostolate, to live as a faithful disciple of Jesus, to build a Christian society, and to give joy to the Holy Catholic Church. I salute you, Mother, morning and evening. Along the road I call upon you. From the I await inspiration and comfort to crown the holy duties of my earthly vocation, to give glory to God, and to achieve eternal salvation."



High School 'Pioneers'

Christian Brothers at Bishop Kearney High School greeted freshmen students in temporary cafeteria-classroom. Notre Dame nuns taught their pupils in regular classrooms. Temporary arrangements are also in effect at Cardinal Mooney High School.

Lad Claims Cancer Cure At Fatima

Funchal — (NC) — A ten-year-old boy who left Lisbon's Cancer Institute in July a hopeless case is back on the island of Madeira playing ball with his pals.

Jose Aleixo Gomes was apparently cured at Fatima of a leg cancer that doctors expected would take his life.

Jose's leg was operated on last January at the Cancer Institute. The boy went home three months later, but the painful cancer got worse day by day.

In the beginning of July, his father, a Funchal printer, brought him back to the Cancer Institute. But the doctors gave up hope. They decided the boy ought to go home to die.

JOSE BEGGED his father to take him to Fatima. On July 29, Jose knelt in the Chapel of the Apparitions for two hours, despite the pain in his leg, praying for a cure.

When he finished praying, he got to his feet, drank some Fatima water and said he was hungry.

The boy, who hadn't eaten solid food for weeks, eagerly took a cake and some milk.

Back at the Cancer Institute, he was examined (Aug. 3) by the specialist who had operated on him. The doctor found the change extraordinary, but he wants to examine him again in six months.

Kasavubu's Ninth Child

Leopoldville — (NC) — Michale Victor Kasavubu, ninth child of President Joseph Kasavubu of the Congo, was baptized in St. Francis de Sales church here by Father John Pontem. Congolese Premier Cyrille Adoula and Defense Minister Jerome Anany were present at the ceremony.

Ohio Town Halts Sunday Shopping

Cleveland — (NC) — "You are doing your duty in enforcing the law," wrote Auxiliary Bishop John F. Whealon of Cleveland to Mayor Kenneth J. Sims of near-Euclid on efforts by that city's officials to eliminate illegal Sunday sales.

"Needless to say," replied the grateful Mayor, "there were times when we felt the public was not supporting our efforts."

The exchange of letters reflects one difficulty public officials face in enforcing the Sunday closing laws, according to a man on the firing line — Robert Steele, Euclid Police Prosecutor.

Steele said he's convinced that the great majority are against wide open Sunday business—but they just stay at home and ignore it.

Meanwhile, he added, the minority who favor it and stand to profit from it, hires attorneys and issues statements by the yard.

The Sunday business controversy boiled over here again when the Bailey company, a more than 50-year-old department store, announced that two of its suburban stores would be open for Sunday business in Euclid and Mayfield Heights.

A company spokesman said

Music To Make Progress By?

Cochabamba, Bolivia — The ancient, rich, melodic, Bolivian Indian music is being challenged by the 20th century.

"In every city, town and pueblo, radios are blaring forth the latest, loudest discs put out by the music makers of Broadway," says Maryknoll Father Joseph F. Michenfelder, of St. Louis, Mo.

"It is a bit sad to stroll through the Maryknoll parish here and see groups of Quechua Indian teenagers dressed in their colorful native costumes, attempting to perform the twist, with the radio voice of Chubby Checkers urging them on.

"An Alliance for Progress? One wonders."

He explained that people cannot expect most stores to remain closed — just because they always have — while others continue to operate in open defiance of law, even after convictions have been obtained and upheld by the courts.

Ray said the threat of a large-scale expanding Sunday business in Euclid brought some much needed grassroots support. He added that priests and ministers in the area spoke out from their pulpits against Sunday buying and selling, and that scores of letters — all urging strict law enforcement — were received by public officials.

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Catechetics Program Intensified

How to give religious instruction to Catholic pupils attending public schools will be demonstrated at three parish halls as part of a current intensified catechetical program throughout the Rochester area.

Father Albert Schnacky, diocesan director of the Conferment of Christian Doctrine, has scheduled the three demonstrations as follows:

- At St. Michael's parish hall, Rochester, Sunday, Sept. 9, at 3 p.m.
- At St. Mary's of the Lake parish hall, Ontario, Sunday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m.
- At St. Anne's parish hall, Rochester, Sunday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m.

A thirty week training course for lay catechists will be held at the School of Religion, Fairport, beginning Monday, Oct. 8. The once a week evening course will be given by the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, an order of nuns which specializes in the religious instruction of public school children.

Prefab Churches Rushed To Italy Quake Zone

Vatican City — (NC) — The Pontifical Relief Organization has sent prefabricated churches and mobile altars to the earthquake-devastated areas of southern Italy following a series of tremors that began August 21.

The Ariano diocese has reported that all churches in the See have been damaged. Half of them have collapsed entirely and the other half are closed until they can be inspected by safety crews.

The cathedral has also suffered damage, including a long crack in the belfry which has made the entire building unsafe.

Churches and schools in the Benevento archdiocese and the Avellino diocese have also been seriously damaged and in many regions of the two Sees religious functions have been suspended.

The organization — which is receiving major assistance from Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference — is also providing emergency food supplies, bedding and other relief for the stricken regions.

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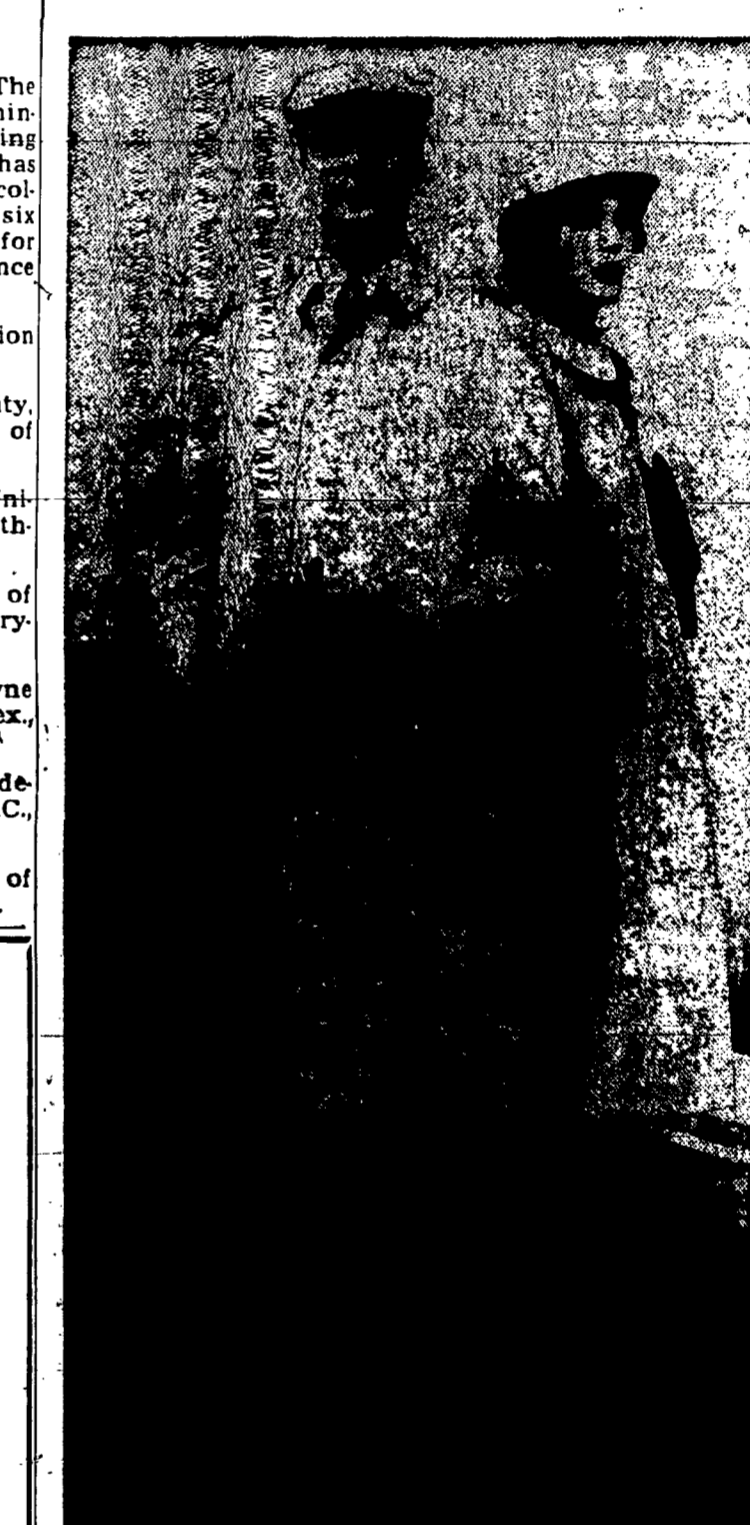
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